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the subject of a truce, with a view to an ultimate reduction of armaments, should be given the first place in the program of the Second Hague Conference, which the President of the United States has undertaken to summon at the earliest convenient date."

The program thus covered a wide range of topics, most of them often discussed in the international peace congresses. But the British workers showed by their deep interest and the freshness and power of their utterances that these subjects are and always will be new and pertinent until war and its causes and attendant evils are gotten out of the way.

We congratulate our British colleagues on the success of their national Congress, and more particularly on their zeal and faithfulness, and the ability and practical wisdom with which they are pushing forward their propaganda.

### Editorial Notes.

#### To the Lucerne Peace Congress.

The secretary of the American Peace Society, Benjamin F. Trueblood, sails for Europe on the "Republic" from Boston, on the 10th inst. He will be accompanied by his daughter, Florence Esther Trueblood, and her cousin, Miss Edith M. Rhoades, of St. Joseph, Mo. After resting a week in England, the secretary will go to Brussels in time for the Interparliamentary Union Conference, which opens on the 28th of August. From Brussels he will go to Christiania, Norway, for the Twenty-Second Conference of the International Law Association, of which he is a member. This conference opens on the 4th of September and continues till the 7th. Then the party will go south through Denmark and Germany and reach Lucerne in time for the opening of the Fourteenth International Peace Congress on the 19th of September. After its close they will return via Geneva and Paris, and sail from Liverpool for Boston on the "Cymric" on the 29th of September. On account of the secretary's absence there will be no issue of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* in September, the current number being a double one. The October number, which will be published somewhat later in the month than usual, will contain extended accounts of the three great international meetings mentioned above— all of which are held in the interests of the world's brotherhood and peace. All of them give promise of being great and enthusiastic gatherings. The Interparliamentary Conference will probably have from six hundred to one thousand delegates, twenty-five representatives going from the United States. The Peace Congress will be equally as large, if not larger, fifty and more delegates being expected from this country. The International Law Association, though a limited body of something under four hundred members, will probably also make its Christiania conference a memorable and

conspicuous success. Let all the friends of peace — and they are legion — everywhere take advantage of the month of meeting of these important world-gatherings to promote the vital principles of international justice and law, international friendship and coöperation, international arbitration, international organization and peace in whose behalf they are all held.

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The whole world will watch with great interest and no little solicitude the meeting and deliberations of the Russian and Japanese peace envoys at Portsmouth. They are all now in this country, and their conference will commence in a few days. The appointment by the Russian government of Sergius de Witte in place of Count Mouravieff is generally believed to make peace more certain to be the outcome of the negotiations. Mr. de Witte is a very able and progressive man. He was opposed to the Russian policy which brought on the war, and he has the confidence of the Japanese government. What the instructions given to the envoys by their respective governments are, it is not possible to conjecture in advance. Our own judgment is that the chances of the failure of the conference are very few. Both the governments have gone too far to allow the negotiations to end in failure. Their acceptance of the invitation to hold the conference in this country, which they both know is very anxious to see peace reëstablished, is almost a guaranty of the successful issue of the effort. It is reported that Japan is willing to have a formal armistice declared when the negotiations actually begin. We hope so. That would materially aid the envoys. Of course, no agreement may be reached. If either government shows itself haughty and exacting, the war may break out afresh and go on with increased fury and bitterness; but if the spirit of peace is cherished by them in any considerable measure, and they show themselves mutually respectful and conciliatory, it ought not to be impossible for a basis of adjustment to be reached which will not only put an end to the present conflict, which has so shocked and distressed the civilized world, but also ensure permanent peace between them and even real friendship and coöperation for the future.

#### China and the Peace Negotiations.

The Chinese government has sent the following note to all the neutral powers, and the substance of it to the governments of Japan and Russia:

"Having viewed with profound regret the unfortunate interruption of peaceful relations between Japan and Russia, the imperial government now learns with sincere gratification that negotiations are about to commence for the restoration of peace and amity.

"But in the present conflict Chinese territory has been made the theatre of military operations. Therefore, it is hereby expressly declared that no provision affecting China without the approval of China previously obtained, which the treaty of peace may contain, will be recognized as valid. The diplomatic representatives of China to Japan and Russia have been instructed by telegraph to communicate this declaration to the governments of Japan and Russia respectively."

It is practically certain that China will not be allowed to have any voice in the determination of the terms of peace, even as regards the disposition of Manchuria. Japan may, in the negotiations, insist, for her own sake, on the integrity of China, as she has again and again declared it her purpose to do. But China ought to have the say about Manchuria. The two belligerents have been fighting on her territory, which they have had no right to do either in justice or the well understood principles of international law. War pays no attention to justice in cases like this, and that is one of its strongest condemnations. The most natural thing in the world is for China to wish that the combatants may remember that they are on her territory, and that, instead of attempting to make any disposition of it, they ought to get off of it as quickly as possible. That China is weak and helpless before the brutal might of the belligerents does not alter the case in the least. Justice is justice whether it has an ounce of might in its support or a million tons. The civilized world ought to hear and support with all its moral influence the cry of China, and to make it impossible for the two big powers to trample upon her. There will never be any assured peace in the East until China's national rights are respected by all the powers that have hitherto considered her legitimate prey for their robber designs.

Steps have been taken at Berne, Switzerland, for the incorporation under the Swiss laws of the International Peace Propaganda Fund, which the Peace Congress at Rouen in 1893 decided to have established, and which was again favored by vote of the Boston Peace Congress last October. The incorporators of the Fund are Henri Morel, director of the International Bureau of Literary Property, Dr. Ludwig Stein, professor, and Elie Ducommun, secretary of the International Peace Bureau. The name of the corporation is, in French, *Caisse Internationale de Propagande Pacifiste*, translation of which is as given above. The statutes provide that the seat of the Fund shall be at Berne; that the sums given for the Foundation and the gifts and legacies made thereto shall form a capital, only the interest of which shall be used unless otherwise specified by the donors; that the Fund shall be managed by the Perma-

nent Committee of the Peace Bureau; that report shall be made each year to the annual meeting of the Peace Bureau. The Peace Bureau has issued an appeal to the peace societies in each country to take such steps as may seem to them advisable to secure contributions, legacies, etc., for the Fund. The income of the Fund will be employed in promoting the various lines of peace work marked out by the peace congresses.

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### Brevities.

. . . The Arbitration and Peace Society of Cincinnati is making itself powerfully felt in the community. It will be represented in the Lucerne Peace Congress by two delegates, its president, Prof. P. V. N. Myers, and Rabbi Louis Grossman, a member of its Executive Committee. These gentlemen have already sailed for Europe and will spend the time in traveling until the opening of the Congress.

. . . Mr. George Foster Peabody of New York, so well known for his humanitarian labors in many directions, has ordered one hundred thousand copies of the eight-page pamphlet, "The Christ of the Andes," published by the American Peace Society, and is having them distributed at the summer conferences, etc., and will in the fall also distribute them as far as possible in the schools and colleges of the country.

. . . The Boston Merchants' Association *Bulletin* for June contained a brief account of the Mohonk Arbitration Conference, in which it was stated that Boston and its suburbs had forty representatives in the Conference. The Merchants' Association and the Chamber of Commerce of Boston both accepted Mr. Smiley's invitation and sent delegates.

. . . The Interparliamentary Union Council, at its meeting at Brussels in August, invited the Commission of the International Peace Bureau at Berne to name a member of a committee to study the question of the advisability of creating an International Peace Academy, as proposed by Mr. Ludwig von Bar in the *Courrier Europeen*. The Commission has appointed Senator La Fontaine of Brussels to serve on the Committee of Study.

. . . President W. O. Thompson, of the Ohio State University, has been chosen and has consented to serve as a member of the Committee on Arbitration of the Columbus Board of Trade.

. . . The letter recently sent by teachers of France to the teachers of England, with the purpose of aiding in deepening the pacific feeling between the two peoples is being widely circulated in Great Britain, copies having been printed in both English and French.

. . . The destruction of the "Bennington" in the harbor of San Diego by explosion of her boilers, with the loss of so many young men killed and maimed for life, adds another to the frequent calamities of this sort in the navy. It is said to be, next to the destruction of the "Maine" in Havana harbor, "the saddest chapter in the